

# THE BLAZER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CUMBERLAND VALLEY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## CONGRESSMAN JOHN JOYCE

As a prelude to the CVCS 50th anniversary celebration, Congressman John Joyce visited the school on Oct. 9. Dr. Joyce spoke to an assembly of 7th through 12th grade students and visited the 5th-grade classroom.

Dr. Joyce, an Altoona native, represents Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. He has been in Congress since 2019, and he was reelected for his fourth term this past November.



Dr. Joyce talked with students and staff about a variety of subjects, including school choice: "I believe in school choice, that parents should have the right to choose what kind of education their children should receive."

He said he had acknowledged CVCS on the House floor for its 50 years of "offering quality faith-based education." He presented the school with a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol Building.

Dr. Joyce fielded questions from students. In response to one student he said, "The American Dream is what you want to be based on your God-given talents and abilities."

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Last October, CVCS celebrated its 50th anniversary with a weekend full of fun, reflection, and community spirit. Alumni, current families, faculty, staff, and supporters gathered to honor the school's rich history and legacy, while looking forward to a bright future.

Events such as decade reunions and the alumni breakfast gave graduated students a chance to connect with old friends and reminisce about their time about CVCS, while alumni sports games and a Hall of Fame Ceremony honored previous athletes.

On Saturday, hundreds gathered for a day of sports, a chili cook-off, and a children's area complete with bounce houses, face painting, and games. The day was topped off with MDCC games and a smoked barbeque dinner by Redemption BBQ, providing a delicious and satisfying end to a fantastic day.

The grand finale of the weekend took place at The Open Door Church with a special celebration church service. It was a deeply moving time as Dr. Dino Pedrone, founder of CVCS, was the guest speaker. The service was a reminder of the school's mission to provide Christ-centered education and to equip students for lives of service and leadership. After the service, the weekend celebrations concluded with the CVCS Friends and Family Banquet.

Overall, the anniversary weekend was a memorable time to honor the past, celebrate the present, and embrace the future of the school. Thank you to all who participated in the celebrations – your support is what makes CVCS such a special place. Here's to another 50 years of impact, growth, and serving the Lord!





# GRANDPARENTS DAY

CVCS hosted our annual Grandparents Day on Friday, October 25, 2024. This event is one of our favorites as we have the pleasure of inviting all of our students' grandparents on campus to spend the day with them at school. This special day started off with light refreshments, coffee, and fellowship in the fellowship hall of The Open Door Church. As our grandparents patiently waited, our students were piling into the auditorium to get ready for the program they had prepared for this occasion. Our High School Music Teacher, Mr. Bryan Hoover and our Elementary Music Teacher, Mrs. Summer Rock did a tremendous job of planning and organizing a student program for everyone to enjoy.



After the program was finished, current grandfather, and graduate of CVCS, Jim Carey provided us with a heartwarming message about the importance of family, including our school family. The day finished with the grandparents visiting the students' classrooms and taking part in fun activities including a picture booth made available in the gym. We had so much fun with our grandparents this year and we look forward to doing the same in 2025!



## ALUMNI NOTABLES

- The following students were named to the Dean's List at Shippensburg University for the Fall 2024 semester: **Kendra Bard** (Class of 2022, Marketing); **Regan Bard** (Class of 2022, Exercise Science); **Kole Faokunla** (Class of 2018, Information Systems and Analytics); **Emmalyn Hott** (Class of 2023, Early Childhood Education); **Layne Morris** (Class of 2024, Exploratory Studies); **Adam Snyder** (Class of 2022, Mechanical Engineering); **Peyton Timmons** (Class of 2024, Business Administration); **Lili Wenger** (Class of 2024, Political Science); and **Ryan Winters** (Class of 2021, Finance). Also making the Dean's List were **Ashlyn Hollenshead**, who serves as an elementary aide, and **Makayla Zahora**, who graduated in December and now is a second-grade teacher at CVCS.
- **Dhriti Rathod** (Class of 2023) is serving as an officer in two student organizations at the New York Institute of Technology: NYC American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and \*NYC Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)

*Have an accomplishment you want to announce? Dean's List, College Graduation, Marriage, New Job, Job Promotion, Something Notable? We want to know. If you have an accomplishment you'd like to announce, send it to [tmiller@cvcsblazers.com](mailto:tmiller@cvcsblazers.com), and we will include it in our Alumni Corner.*

# HOMIE COURT'

## A D V A N T A G E

For 50+ years, CVCS has been dedicated to providing our community with the best education with a spiritual foundation. God has been faithful, and we have recently seen tremendous growth in our school. We are excited about our new Home Court Advantage campaign, which will help us renovate our gym with new flooring, bleachers, basketball hoops, volleyball systems, and so much more. This renovation will modernize the gym space and positively impact our academics, athletics, and all who will use this multi-purpose space.

**Scan the QR code for more information about Home Court Advantage, as well as ways to give and to be a part of this exciting phase of CVCS.**





# SPORTS UPDATE

CVCS basketball teams are hoping for success in postseason play.

At time of publication, the varsity girls team had a record of 8-7 and is a legitimate contender for a championship in the Mason Dixon Christian Conference tournament. The Blazers' most impressive victory was a 20-point win over Grace Academy.

The varsity boys are hoping for a Final Four appearance in the MDCC tournament. At publication time, their record was 3-12 with some very winnable games coming up.



In junior high sports, both the girls and boys teams have shown improvement over the season. The girls team has posted a winning record, and the boys team, after a rough year last year, has picked up several big victories.

CVCS also unveiled a cheer squad for the current basketball season. The girls on the squad have supported the teams with great enthusiasm throughout the year.

## PENNY DRIVE

CVCS students raised more than \$3,400 in a “Penny Drive” to help orphans in Uganda.

Student council advisor Amanda Carey formulated the idea after hearing about a pastor in Uganda who was given charge to care for 116 orphans who were living without basic necessities of food, clean water, clothing and medical care.

She initiated a drive in which students would donate pennies as part of a class competition and would accumulate points based on the number of pennies collected. Students could also donate larger denominations of coins or bills to reduce other classes’ point totals.

“As a teacher, I knew that our students would love the competition of such a fundraiser and would always enjoy the opportunity to bless those in need,” Mrs. Carey said. “The Student Council discussed how we would like to run things to make them a little bit more interesting (i.e., using silver coins as sabotage), and we set the initial goal of \$1,000. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the outcome.”

The outcome was this: CVCS students raised \$3,475.73.

***CVCS students raised \$3,475.73 to provide a Christmas meal & gifts to orphans in Uganda.***

“Just a few weeks ago, Pastor Sam had posted a Christmas wish list itemizing how much it would cost to provide an actual full, nutritious Christmas dinner to the children, including meats and veggies, new clothes, shoes, and Christmas presents for each child, which totaled just over

\$3,200,” Mrs. Carey said. “With the money raised, we will be able to give them more than needed to provide those children with full stomachs and warm clothes this holiday season. I will forever be beyond proud of our student body for stepping up when it mattered the most!”

Winners of the pizza party for highest point totals were 2nd, 6th and 8th grades.

***“Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the outcome.”***

***–Amanda Carey  
Teacher & Student  
Council Advisor***



# VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

For the second consecutive year, CVCS honored veterans of the armed services at a special Veterans Day program.

A total of 72 guests attended the event, which featured prayer, patriotic music and special speakers. The program again featured the presentation of colors by Chambersburg Area Senior High School JROTC members.



Bob John, a member of the American Legion in Chambersburg for 51 years, was the featured speaker. John, an Air Force veteran, served a two-year term as State Commander of the American Legion.

He gave a brief summary of how Veterans Day has evolved as a celebration of those who have served in the military. As a parting statement, he reminded the veterans who attended, "We will not forget you!"





# Cumberland Valley Christian School

*A ministry of the Open Door Church*

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